

Newsletter

Autumn Term

Date: 12.11.2021

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

Though your beginning was small,
your future will flourish indeed.
Job 8:7

Headteacher's message / notes

Christmas update

Word has it, that Santa says Christmas is going ahead this year. Hooray!

In planning ahead, a few bits of information for Plan A and Plan B, as we do need to consider the advice from Government and Essex regarding the increase of COVID cases in Essex.



1 December	Christmas tree arrives.
6 December	School assembly and service at St Nicholas church.
10 December	Christmas jumper day (non-uniform day).
10-12 th December	Christmas in the village, with a Carol Service at St Nicolas on Sunday the 12 th December
13 December	Christmas concert (pupils to dress up in costumes).
16 December	Virtual panto.

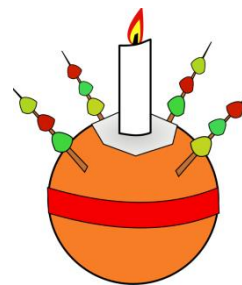
Our school attendance target is:

96%

Attendance this week:

Reception	91.26%
Year 1	95.71%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	93.33%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	93.0%
Year 6	90.0%
Whole school	93.72

- All classes will be baking Christmas biscuits as part of the Food Technology curriculum, in the spirit of Christmas.
- There will also be a Christingle competition (more info to follow) with a prize for each class.
- School Christmas Dinner TBC.
- Please have a look at the school's website for information under COMMUNITY NEWS AND FLYERS. Larkins Farm is offering a discount for customers to Pick & Net their tree.
- Please support the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal initiative (for more information, see below).



Winning year groups:

Gold – 1 st	Year 2
Gold – 1 st	Year 4
Bronze – 3 rd	Year 1

Achievers of the week:

		Reader of the week	Writer of the week	Mathematician of the week	Scientist of the week	Star of the week
Reception		-	-	-	-	-
Year 1	Year 2	Joey	Eva L	Henry R	Dotty	Ralph K
Year 3	Year 4	Max	Lillie	Sienna	Philomena	Archie
Year 5	Year 6	Freya	George	Jessica	Seb	Jaycee



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Newsletter
Autumn Term
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Value this half-term



Big questions of the week:

Reception	Year 1	Does space really exist?
Year 2		Who makes a hero or heroine?
Year 3		Should employers have the right to strike?
Year 4		Would you rather entertain or save lives?
Year 5		Should the rich pay higher taxes?
Year 6		Is it worse to be lonely or poor?

Headteacher's message / notes continue....

Christmas update...Christmas Concert

- Reception pupils will be dressed up as nativity characters.
- Years 5 and 6 pupils will do the narration.
- All pupils will participate in Christmas songs.
- As part of homework, can pupils plan for a dress up on the 13th December.

Reception	Nativity Characters
Years 1 & 2	Angels and stars
Years 3 & 4	Animals in the stable (templates will be provided for headpieces).
Years 5 & 6	Shepherds and wise men

PLAN A

- We are planning to have parents in for the event, subject to changes and updates from Government and Essex on COVID guidelines.

PLAN B

- Parents not in attendance.
- A photo book to be copied as a keepsake with pupil photos, narration, etc.
- Possible live streaming or password protected time limited link of concert recording.



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Diocese of Chelmsford



**Newsletter
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Remembrance Day – 11th November

We commemorated Remembrance Day in Assembly.



In Flanders Fields

by
Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae
(Canadian 1872 - 1918)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD was a Canadian poet, physician, author, artist and soldier during World War I, and a surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres, in Belgium. He died of pneumonia at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, on January 28, 1918 (aged 45).



Reception was busy...

Red Class learnt all about Bonfire night and why we celebrate it. We painted our own fireworks and created lots of different patterns.



Red Class also enjoyed learning about Diwali - The festival of light. We made our own salt dough Diwali lamps.



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Diocese of Chelmsford



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Autumn Term
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Odd socks day as part of Anti-bully week

On Monday, 15th November pupils are invited and encouraged to wear ODD SOCKS to school.

All they need to do is wear odd socks! No fundraiser or donation asked.



It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique as part of Anti-Bullying Week!

Anti-bullying week is 15-19 November 2021.

Anti-Bullying Week 2021

15-19 Nov 2021

Children in Need – Friday, 19th November

- On Friday 19th November we will be hosting our Children In Need Day.
- This will be a non-uniform day and children can choose to come to school in something SPOTTY if they would like.
- The theme of the day is **Together We Can**; this is about supporting those children and families most affected by the pandemic.
- We will much appreciate it if you could make a small donation towards Children in Need.
- We look forward to seeing lots of SPOTTY children on the day.



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - [www.https://teams4u.com/](https://teams4u.com/)



From across the UK, your shoebox gifts will travel to orphanages in Belarus; and to deprived communities in Bosnia, Georgia, Romania and Moldova.

Your shoebox gifts are given to people forced to leave their homes through decades long (and often out of sight of media interest) conflict; to those without homes; to children who have lost parents or been abandoned; and to those who face intense

discrimination in their own countries, forcing them to live on the outskirts of their societies.

If you would like to consider supporting this initiative, all boxes need to be delivered to the school office on the latest, **Wednesday, 24th November 2021.**

Switch Off Fortnight w/c 8th November 2021

For the next two weeks, as well as other things, there will be a focus on energy saving.

This is Switch Off Fortnight.

Mrs Dean will be recording the electricity meter reading on Monday 8th November 2021 and again on Monday 22nd November 2021 - so that we can ascertain how much energy we can save if we are a little more mindful in our everyday tasks.



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Newsletter Autumn Term Date: 12.11.2021

Prefects/School Council Representatives will be responsible for checking that the class reduces their electricity output as much as possible over the fortnight and will visit your classes to check.

As a finale to this fortnight - we will have a 'NO ELECTRICITY DAY' - as much as is possible on **Friday 19th November 2021**. The aim is to really make an impact before the final meter reading on Monday 22nd November 2021.



There will also be a competition that will be emailed home to parents/carers for children to complete a poem, photo, poster, video, song, or rap to get everyone switching off and saving energy, which needs to be submitted directly to: contact_us@jointhepod.org by midday on Wednesday 17 November.

Virtual Author reading events in school

Mrs Jenny Dean (English Lead) has organised virtual author days for us this term.

Year 5 and Year 6 (8+)

Jacqueline Wilson - Friday 12th November 2021 @ 10:30am (45 minutes)

Further information here: <https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/events/virtual-visit-webinar-jacqueline-wilson-author-of-the-primrose-railway-children/>

Year 3 and Year 4 (7+)

Maddie Moate - Friday 26th November 2021 @ 10:30am (45 minutes)

Further information here: <https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/events/virtual-visit-webinar-maddie-moate-author-of-stuff/>

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (5+)

Nick Sharratt - Friday 3rd December 2021 @ 10:30am (45 minutes)

<https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/events/virtual-visit-webinar-nick-sharratt-author-and-illustrator-of-oh-no-shark-in-the-snow/>

Year 5 & 6 Swimming

Swimming is a national curriculum requirement and it is an important part of KS2 education. Year 5 & 6 pupils will be having swimming lessons at Ongar Leisure Centre on Monday afternoons on the following dates:

- 8th November
- 15th November
- 22nd November
- 29th November
- 6th December
- 13th December



ALL CHILDREN MUST WEAR A SWIMMING HAT and will not be allowed to swim without one.

PTFA meeting, Monday 15/11 at 15:30

We have had a number of parents interested in joining the PTFA, thank you, this is very exciting.

We would like to have an initial meeting on **Monday, 15th November at 15:30** in the school hall, just to meet each other and have an informal chat about any ideas and how we take things forward.

I look forward to seeing you then. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the school office.

Kind regards

Mrs N Curtis - Parent Governor



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Newsletter
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School uniform

Our second hand clothes rail will be open this Friday after school outside the ICT Suite/Library in the main playground.

We have jumpers, shirts, t-shirts and summer dresses, plus a few other bits. A donation for each item is welcome, this money will go to the PTFA and towards the school. A suggested donation is £2 for a jumper or skirt, £1 for trousers and summer dresses and 50p for shirts or t-shirts. There will be a moneybox so please bring change.



All items have been washed.

We would also be grateful for any donations of clothes, please leave them near the clothes rail and we will wash them for the following week. The rail will be open every Friday after school.

At the end of each term, we will also go through the lost property, any named items will be returned and any unnamed items will be washed and put onto the second hand rail.

- School uniform – Ciel Uniform has a link to purchase school uniform. They offer tartan skirts and kilts for the girls. <https://www.cielschooluniform.co.uk/dr-walker-primary-school/>
- A kind reminder that pupils need to be wearing the appropriate PE kit to showcase our school's pride in uniform. We appreciate that the supplier is struggling to provide all of the appropriate school uniform. This will be monitored. Pupils wearing studs in their ears, need to have these removed prior to the lesson as they are a health and safety hazard.

Open evenings for prospective Reception pupils:

- Thursday, 18 November at 17:00
- Thursday, 2 December at 16:15

Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2022

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 8 November 2021**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2022.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2022**.

From **8 November 2021**, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Other bits and pieces - Information and Reminders

- A kind request to refer queries to the class teacher in the first instance before asking the Office staff to speak to the Headteacher.



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Menus

WEEK ONE commencing 1.11.21, 22.11.21, 13.12.21, 24.1.22, 21.2.22 & 14.3.22

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Chicken Curry with Naan Bread	Shredded Pork in a Yorkshire Pudding (Optional gravy)	Spaghetti Bolognese	Bubble Coated Fish Fillet
Rainbow Pizza (V)	Sweet Potato & Lentil Curry With Naan Bread (V)	Meat-Free Meatballs in a Yorkshire Pudding (V) (Optional gravy)	Quorn Bolognese (V)	Egg & Vegetable Wedge (V)
Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans
Sweetcorn Carrot & Sultana Salad Cucumber Slices	White & Wholegrain Rice Peas Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes Cauliflower & Broccoli Florets	Homemade Cheese & Onion Bread Green Salad	Chips Baked Beans Sweetcorn
Healthy Fruit Day	Vanilla Sponge & Strawberry Custard	Coconut & Cranberry Cookie	Healthy Fruit Day	Chocolate Brownie

Bread, Milk and Water is available daily.

WEEK TWO commencing 8.11.21, 29.11.21, 10.01.22, 31.01.22, 28.2.22 & 21.3.22

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Fish Finger Wrap	Chicken Pie	Roast Chicken with Sage & Onion Stuffing	Beef Pasticcio	Chipolata Pork Sausages
Meet-Free Meatball Wrap	Vegetarian Sausage Twist	Sage & Onion topped Quorn fillet	Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake	Quorn Dippers
Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans
White & Wholegrain Rice Cucumber Slices Grated Carrot & Shredded Lettuce	Mashed Potato Sweetcorn Shredded Cabbage	Roast Potatoes Carrots Broccoli Florets	Peas Mixed Garden Salad	Mini Potato Waffles Baked Beans Sweetcorn
Lemon Drizzle Cake	Healthy Fruit Day	Flapjack	Healthy Fruit Day	Chocolate Crispy Cake

Bread, Milk and Water is available daily.

WEEK THREE commencing 15.11.21, 6.12.21, 17.01.22, 7.2.22, 7.3.22 & 28.3.22

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Macaroni Cheese (V)	Beef Burger in a Bun	Roast Gammon with Yorkshire Pudding	Nacho Chicken	Jumbo Fish Fingers
Macaroni Cheese (V)	Spicy Bean Burger in a Bun	Sage & Onion topped Quorn Fillet (V)	Nacho Quorn (V)	Cheese Quesadillas (V)
Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans
Garden Salad Peas	Green Salad Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes Carrots Shredded Cabbage	White & Wholegrain Rice Broccoli Florets Mixed Salad	Chips Peas Baked Beans
Fruit Crumble & Custard	Healthy Fruit Day	Angel Delight Mousse	Healthy Fruit Day	Chocolate & Cinnamon Shortbread

Bread, Milk and Water is available daily.



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